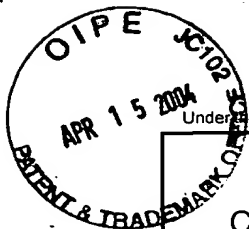


61



RCE/3738

PTO/SB/30 (09-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Request  
For  
Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal

Address to:  
MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/815,504
Filing Date	March 23, 2001
First Named Inventor	Michael Castro
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	A. J. Stewart
Attorney Docket No.	SPINE 3.0-2658

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
  - a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
    - i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☒ Enclosed
    - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
    - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
    - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Miscellaneous**
  - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)
  - b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
  - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 12-1095
    - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
    - ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
    - iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed
  - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Thomas M. Palisi	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,629
Signature		Date	April 12, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 12, 2004

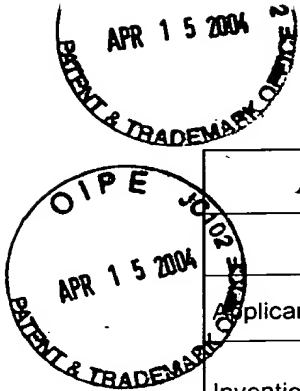
Signature: (Thomas M. Palisi)

487845\_1.DOC

04/16/2004 CHNGUYEN 00000046 121095 09815504

01 FC:1801

770.00 DA



<b>AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER</b>				Docket No. SPINE 3.0-2658	
Application No. 09/815,504	Filing Date March 23, 2001	Examiner A. J. Stewart	Art Unit 3738		
Applicant(s): Michael Castro, Herb Cohen, David Nichols, and R. Scott Graham					
Invention: MODULAR IMPLANT FOR FUSING ADJACENT BONE STRUCTURE					
<b>TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS</b>					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
<b>CLAIMS AS AMENDED</b>					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
<b>Total Claims</b>	32	- 46 =		x	0.00
<b>Independent Claims</b>	6	- 6 =		x	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:</b>					<b>0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity</span>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>12-1095</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
Thomas M. Palisi Attorney Reg. No.: 36,629				Dated: <u>April 12, 2004</u>	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP 600 South Avenue West Westfield, New Jersey 07090 (908) 518-6366					
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.					
Dated: April 12, 2004		Signature:  (Thomas M. Palisi)			

(~~Thomas~~ M. Palisi)

The following amendment is filed in connection with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE"), and responds to the issues raised in the Final Official Action dated December 12, 2003.